

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend the paragraph which begins on page 6, line 7 and ends on page 6, line 15, as follows:

--The bracing members 11, 12 are generally rectangular structures, but it is also contemplated that their members may be any polygonal shape known or developed in the art. Bracing members 11, 12 may be separate pieces that are coupled to the walls 13, 14. In another embodiment, the bracing members 11, 12 and the walls 13, 14 are integral. That is, the components that comprise the connector 10 can be formed from a single piece of material. As shown in Figure 1, the bracing members 11, 12 are coupled to the walls 13, 14 and are essentially perpendicular to the walls 13, 14. In other embodiments, the bracing members 11, 12 may be placed at various angles relative to the walls 13, 14 to accommodate various designs for the intended structure.--

Please amend the paragraph which begins on page 6, line 20 and ends on page 7, line 6, as follows:

--Turning now to Figure 2, a template of the connector 10 is illustrated. The template is a generally planar structure having a plurality of openings 16 provided thereon. As shown in Figure 2, the template includes portions of the base 15, the first and second walls 13, 14, and first and second bracing members 11, 12. The template may be formed into a complete connector 10 by folding the walls 13, 14 upward. The first and second bracing members 11, 12 may be formed by bending the template at

lines 21, 22 such that the walls 13, 14 are perpendicular to the bracing member 11, 12.

The angle  $\alpha$  is the angle at which the base 15 angles upward. As those skilled in the art will appreciate, the angle  $\alpha$  may be adjusted to vary pitch or angle of the base 15.--

Please amend the paragraph which begins on page 8, line 13 and ends on page 9, line 3, as follows:

-- As shown in Figure [[5]]6, the first and second bracket 71, 72 ~~are comprised of a~~ include first generally planar members 74 and 77, respectively. ~~which~~ Each planar member (74, 77) is composed of a first end (100, 108), a second end (102, 110), first side (104, 112), and a second side (106, 114), respectively. In one embodiment, ~~one of the sides 104 and 106 of [[the]] first bracket 71 [[has]]~~ are disposed at an angle  $\alpha$ . A second planar member 73 ~~is then~~ may be coupled to ~~an edge side 106 of [[the]] first planar member 74.~~ Accordingly, ~~[[a]]~~ the coupling of ~~[[the]] first planar member 74~~ forms a generally L-shaped structure. A third planar member is then coupled to an adjacent side of the first planar member 74. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the third planar member 75 may be coupled to the first planar member 74 at a varying angle other than a 90° angle. Furthermore, according to various embodiments, ~~[[the]] planar members 73, 76 may be placed at angles  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  relative to [[the]] first planar members 74, 77, respectively.~~ As those skilled in the art will appreciate, the angles  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  may be substantially the same, or the angles may be different. According to various embodiments, the angles may range from approximately 1° to approximately 90°.--